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TRUTH

# THANKSGIVING

*in American History*



NOVEMBER 26, 1789

**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

CALLS FOR A NATIONAL THANKSGIVING

Presidents throughout history follow suit and call upon their fellow countrymen to have a time of Thanksgiving to God.

NATIONAL DAY OF  
THANKSGIVING

Abe Lincoln



1863

**Autumn Celebration**

Until the Civil War, Thanksgiving was celebrated at different times. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving and ever since it has been an annual autumn celebration.

**Lincoln's Proclamation:**

"The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of the fruitful yields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they came, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God . . .



"No human counsel hath devised or hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People."

What are the three ways Lincoln wanted the People to acknowledge God's blessing?

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S PROCLAMATION:**

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor--and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceable to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Source: Library of Congress  
[www.GatewayPartners.org](http://www.GatewayPartners.org)

What are four things George Washington said are the duties of all nations:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_